

**PETITION FOR CONTEMPT
(FAILURE TO PAY CHILD SUPPORT)
INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETING DOM REL 2**

If a parent of your child(ren) or a parent of a child(ren) in your care has been ordered by a court to pay child support and is not paying, you may ask the court to enforce its order, filing either through an attorney, through your local child support enforcement office, or by yourself. DOM REL forms were developed to assist persons deciding to proceed alone, but you are urged to consider carefully the importance of getting help.

There are 5 steps you must follow in order to proceed with the case yourself:

> STEP 1 — Completion of Form DOM REL 2.

Use this form only if you already have a court order for child support. To complete this form, ***you will need a copy of that order.*** If you do not have a copy, ask the Clerk of Court how to get one.

Court: Fill in the name of the County (or Baltimore City) where you intend to file your case. See ***General Instructions***.

Case No., Plaintiff and Defendant: Fill in the case number, Plaintiff's name and Defendant's name ***exactly*** as they appear on the order. Fill in the ***current*** address and telephone number for both.

Item 1: Print your name in the space provided and state your relationship to the child(ren) by circling "mother" or "father" or naming your relationship in the blank.

List the child(ren)'s full name(s) and date(s) of birth.

Item 2: Looking at the order, fill in the date, the city or county where the order was granted, the case number, the name of the person ordered to pay, and the amount he/she was ordered to pay. Circle whether the payments were to be made weekly, bimonthly, or monthly.

Item 3: Fill in the name of the person ordered to pay.

Item 4: Fill in the amount of money you think you are owed.

Item 5: Circle whether you do or do not want the court to order jail time to enforce its order.

Remember that the court need not give you what you asked for.

Date and sign form DOM REL 2.

> STEP 2 — Completion of Top of a Show Cause Order.

Fill in **ONLY** the top of a Show Cause Order Form (DOM REL 53) and attach it to the petition (DOM REL 2). If the Court signs the show cause order, a copy will be mailed to you.

> STEP 3 — Filing Forms and Paying Filing Fee.

Take your completed forms to the Clerk of Court. Payment of a filing fee generally is required at this time. See ***General Instructions***.

> STEP 4 — Service

You will need to serve the other side with the following papers which you have filed or which have been provided by the Court. See ***General Instructions***.

1. Petition for Contempt
2. Order to Show Cause completed and signed by a judge. (This will be mailed to you if it is signed).
3. Writ of Summons (if required by the Court).

> STEP 5 — Hearing.

If the court signs the show cause order, a copy of it will be mailed back to you. The court will have filled in the court date. Make sure you attend that day. See page 5 of ***General Instructions - What Happens in Court?***

Circuit Court for _____ Case No. _____
City or County

Name _____					Name _____					
Street Address _____ Apt. # _____					VS.	Street Address _____ Apt. # _____				
()						()				
City	State	Zip Code	Area Code	Telephone		City	State	Zip Code	Area Code	Telephone
<i>Plaintiff</i>						<i>Defendant</i>				

PETITION FOR CONTEMPT
(Failure to Pay Child Support)
(DOM REL 2)

I, _____, representing myself, state that:
My name

1. I am the mother/ father or _____
Check One Relationship (for example, aunt, grandfather, guardian, etc.)
of the following minor child(ren) or adult disabled child(ren):

Name _____	Date of Birth _____	Name _____	Date of Birth _____
Name _____	Date of Birth _____	Name _____	Date of Birth _____
Name _____	Date of Birth _____	Name _____	Date of Birth _____

2. On _____ the Circuit Court for _____ issued an
Date City or County
order in case number _____, ordering _____
Name
to pay \$ _____ weekly/ biweekly/ monthly toward the support of the child(ren).
Amount (Check One)

3. _____ has not made child support payments as required by the
Name
Order.

4. \$ _____ child support is due as of _____ .
Amount Date

5. I do/ do not want the court to order jail time to enforce its order.
(Check One)

FOR THESE REASONS, I request the Court issue a Show Cause Order, issue an Order of Contempt for failure to pay child support, order payment of current child support and arrearages, and order any other appropriate relief.

Date Signature

IMPORTANT: YOU MUST ATTACH A SHOW CAUSE ORDER TO THIS FORM
(Use Form DOM REL 53)

Circuit Court for _____ Case No. _____

City or County

VS.

Plaintiff's Name

Defendant's Name

SHOW CAUSE ORDER
(Form to be completed by Court)
(DOM REL 53)

UPON consideration of the Petition for Contempt and the facts asserted in the Petition, which are incorporated by reference herein, this Court ORDERS the ☐Plaintiff/☐Defendant, _____, to appear in person, in this Court for the following proceedings:

☐ PREHEARING CONFERENCE to be held on _____, _____ at _____ a.m./p.m. in Room _____ at _____.

☐ CONTEMPT HEARING to be held on _____, _____ at _____ a.m./p.m. in Room _____ at _____. This hearing will be held before a:

☐ MASTER, pursuant to Maryland Rule 9-208(a)(1)(G)

☐ JUDGE

and to show cause, if any, why the Plaintiff/Defendant should not be granted the relief requested in the Petition for Contempt, provided that a copy of the Petition for Contempt and this Order shall be served on the Plaintiff/Defendant or his/her attorney of record in the following manner:

_____ pursuant to Maryland Rule 15-206 on or before the _____ day of _____, _____. Any written answer shall be filed by the Plaintiff/Defendant on or before the _____ day of _____, _____.
.

NOTICE: If jail time is requested in the Petition, read the Notice on the back of the Show Cause Order.

Judge

Date

Serve on: _____

☐ Defendant
☐ Plaintiff

☐ Defendant's Attorney
☐ Plaintiff's Attorney

Address

****Failure to file proof of service may result in the dismissal of the Petition.****

****If the proposed Show Cause Order and Petition for Contempt are not served by the date indicated above, the Petitioner must request that the Show Cause Order be reissued. Failure to do so will result in the**

dismissal of the Petition for Contempt.**

NOTICE
(Jail Time Requested on Petition)
TO THE PERSON ALLEGED TO BE IN CONTEMPT OF COURT:

1. It is alleged that you have disobeyed a court order, are in contempt of court, and should go to jail until you obey the court's order.
2. You have the right to have a lawyer. If you already have a lawyer, you should consult the lawyer at once. If you do not now have a lawyer, please note:
 - (a) A lawyer can be helpful to you by:
 - (1) explaining the allegations against you;
 - (2) helping you determine and present any defense to those allegations;
 - (3) explaining to you the possible outcomes; and
 - (4) helping you at the hearing.
 - (b) Even if you do not plan to contest that you are in contempt of court, a lawyer can be helpful.
 - (c) If you want a lawyer but do not have the money to hire one, the Public Defender may provide a lawyer for you.
 - ▶ To find out if the Public Defender will provide a lawyer for you, you must contact the Public Defender after any prehearing conference or master's hearing **and at least 10 business days before the date of a hearing before a judge.**
 - ▶ If no prehearing conference or master's hearing is scheduled, you should contact the Public Defender as soon as possible, **at least 10 business days before the date of the hearing before the judge.**
 - ▶ The court clerk will tell you how to contact the Public Defender.
 - (d) If you want a lawyer but you cannot get one and the Public Defender will not provide one for you, contact the court clerk as soon as possible.
 - (e) **DO NOT WAIT UNTIL THE DATE OF YOUR COURT HEARING TO GET A LAWYER.** If you do not have a lawyer before the court hearing date, the judge may find that you have waived your right to a lawyer, and the hearing may be held with you unrepresented by a lawyer.
3. **IF YOU DO NOT APPEAR FOR A SCHEDULED PREHEARING CONFERENCE, MASTER'S HEARING OR COURT HEARING BEFORE THE JUDGE, YOU WILL BE SUBJECT TO ARREST.**